

REMARKS

Claims 7-14, 16-26, and 29-32 are pending in this application. Claims 7, 21, 28 and 30 have been amended. New claims 31 and 32 have been added. A Request for Continued Examination is being filed concurrently with this amendment. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7-14, 16-16 [sic 16-26] and 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,857,179, issued to Vaithyanathan (hereafter "Vaithyanathan") in view of over U.S. Patent No. 6,006,221, issued to Liddy (hereafter "Liddy"). Vaithyanathan discusses a clustering approach which groups similar documents and where the information provided to a user is which documents are similar. Liddy discusses searching to identify documents with specified information where the user must know what he or she is looking for.

Independent claims 7, 21 and 27 have been amended to add several limitations not found in the combination of Vaithyanathan and Liddy.

First, the cited references do not teach or suggest converting data into labeled data that includes a category and a data attribute and is in analyzable condition. Fig. 5 and the discussion cited at col. 10, lines 43-59 do not discuss converting data into labeled data that includes a category and a data attribute and is in analyzable condition. Second, the cited combination

neither teaches nor suggests “extracting key words with mutually dependent relationships in the same sentence as labeled data with concepts, wherein the step of extracting key words comprises using a mutually dependent relationship extraction rule comprising a string of categories of arbitrary length to be extracted.” Finally, the cited references do not teach or suggest the limitations added by amendment:

- searching for unique concepts, a unique concept being a concept whose statistical characteristic is distinguished beyond a threshold with the set to which it belongs;
- creating and keeping statistical information;
- visually displaying the statistical information and presenting; and
- presenting a distribution of differences of the unique concepts.

Claims 8-20 depend on claim 7, and are patentable for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 21 has been amended as claim 7 and it and its dependent claims are also patentable for the foregoing reasons.

Claims 29 and 30 were rejected “based on the same reason” as claim 7 on grounds that claims 29 and 30 “covers the same or similar limitation(s) as claim 20.” However, that is not correct. Claims 29 and 30 extract unique concepts based on their statistical characteristic. The cited references do not teach or suggest extracting unique concepts based on a statistical characteristic at all. The term concept is defined in the specification to mean “key word” with a “category” assigned. See page 7 of Applicant’s specification. Using that definition it is not reasonable to construe that claim in the manner done by the Examiner.


The Office Action contends that “predetermined number” corresponds to the statistical characteristic but Applicant respectfully traversed this conclusion. A predetermined number may not be of a statistical nature. The Examiner’s analysis is fatally infected by hindsight. For example consider that in the final Office Action the Examiner, using the rationalization that the Patent Office gives the claims their broadest reasonable interpretation, interprets Vaithyanathan too broadly. In determining obviousness it is not appropriate to give the prior art any broader meaning than what those skilled in the art would have given it. Vaithyanathan does not discuss unique concepts at all. The Examiner’s reasoning that “frequency/co-occurrence of proper nouns” and certain “probabilities” used in Liddy are statistical characteristics that they must therefore be used to extract unique concepts is flawed. Liddy does not discuss “concepts” as defined at all. Let alone the extraction of such “concepts.”

The Examiner has completely ignored the “extraction” claim language. The alleged prior art cannot be read to include subject matter that it does not teach, not even under the guise of using the broadest reasonable claim interpretation.

Serial Number 09/612,136
Docket Number JA999-118X
Amendment Page 11 of 11

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: December 26, 2007

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